

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 was objected to because of an informality with respect to the words “on ultrasonic”. The claim has been amended in accordance with the office action to “an ultrasonic”. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and in the alternative 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al in view of Benzing II et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Applicant’s amended claim recites that the cutting edge is positioned at a gap distance (d) above the anvil slightly less than or slightly equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component. Further neither Bell nor Benzing II, alone or combination, teach the cutting gap d. First, Bell is not concerned with cutting a composite material having reinforcing cords. Further, the gap in Bell is the material thickness and not the thickness of the reinforcing cords, which is less than the material thickness for a composite material. Similarly, Benzing II does not disclose positioning a cutting edge at a gap distance (d) above the strip slightly less than or slightly equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component.

Claims 6-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and have been indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claim 6 has been amended to be rewritten into independent form, however, Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner’s attention to the fact that the claim language has been modified. Applicant has amended the claim to change the “greater than” language to “equal to”, which is consistent with the description of the invention found in the Summary of the Invention and the detailed description of the invention.

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In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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